

Abstract

A process for easily and industrially advantageously producing a high-purity 2-aralkyl-3-acetylthiopropionic acid and a high-purity 2-aralkylpropionic acid having a leaving group in the 3-position from easily available compounds. A 2-aralkyl-1-propanol having a sulfonyloxy group or halogen atom in the 3-position is oxidized with a permanganate under acidic conditions to produce a high-purity 2-aralkylpropionic acid having sulfonyloxy or the halogen in the 3-position. This acid is reacted with a thioacetate in the presence of water to produce a high-purity 2-aralkyl-3-acetylthiopropionic acid.